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Message Text

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14
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 /072 W
---------- 079610
R 050602Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3214
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3381

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SN
SUBJ: GOS DISCUSSION WITH KUKRIT ON ASEAN

REF: SINGAPORE 3271

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM ON AUG. 4, RAJA COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON THAI PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT'S RECENT VISIT TO SINGAPORE. HE SAID GOS HAD STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ASEAN TO FEEL INTIMIDATED BY HANOI. GOS ARGUMENT WAS THAT ASEAN IS GENERALLY A MUCH MORE PROSPEROUS, DEVELOPED, GOING CONCERN WHEREAS HANOI WOULD INEVITABLY BE PREOCCUPIED IN REBUILDING ITS ECONOMY, CONSOLIDATING ITS CONTROL OVER SOUTH VIETNAM AND WORKING OUT ITS RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE LAO AND THE CAMBODIANS. THEREFORE, THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD STAND TOGETHER AND REFUSE TO BE BULLIED BY EITHER THE AUTHORITIES IN HANOI OR SAIGON.

2. RAJARATNAM SAID THAT IN KUKRIT'S SPEECH TO THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION HE HAD EMPHASIZED THAILAND'S SUPPORT FOR ASEAN. IN ORDER TO LINK THAILAND IRRETRIEVABLY WITH ASEAN LEE HAD SUGGESTED TO KUKRIT THAT THE ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING BE CONFIDENTIAL

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HELD IN BANGKOK. GOS HAD POINTED OUT TO KUKRIT THAT THIS WOULD SHOW HANOI THAT ASEAN AND ESPECIALLY THAILAND WOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE COMMUNIST INDOCHINA STATES. RAJA SAID KUKRIT SEEMED TO LIKE THE IDEA, BUT UNFORTUNATELY REFERRED TO THIS

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SUGGESTION IN PUBLIC BEFORE THE GOS HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY
TO PROMOTE A SUMMIT VENUE IN BANGKOK WITH THE OTHER ASEAN
GOVERNMENTS.

3. RAJARATNAM NOTED THAT ADAM MALIK HAD PASSED THROUGH SINGAPORE
SHORTLY AFTER KUKRIT'S VISIT, AND THAT THE GOS HAD EXPLAINED
TO MALIK WHAT HAD HAPPENED BECAUSE THE INDONESIANS HAD HOPED
TO HAVE THE ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING IN BALI. HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR
THAT THE INDONESIANS WERE NOT PREPARED TO GIVE UP HOSTING THE ASEAN
SUMMIT, AND THEREFORE RAJARATNAM SAID THAT SINGAPORE WOULD MOVE
TO HAVE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING (WHICH WOULD PRECEDE
THE SUMMIT MEETING) IN BANGKOK INSTEAD OF IN SINGAPORE WHERE
IT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE HELD. SINGAPORE WOULD BE HAPPY TO
GIVE UP THE HONOR OF HOSTING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IF
IT WOULD HELP TO LINK THAILAND MORE CLOSELY TO ASEAN. HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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